Please re- examine the claims as follows:

The Claims

1. (Previously presented) A transdermal patch for the treatment of iron deficiency comprising:

a drug reservoir layer;

a rate-controlling membrane secured to said reservoir layer; and

a contact adhesive secured to said rate-controlling membrane, wherein said reservoir contains an hematinic substance.

2. (Previously presented) The transdermal patch as defined in claim 1, wherein said hematinic substance is selected from the class consisting of ferrous sulfate, ferrous lactate, ferrous iodide, ferrous gluconate, ferrous fumarate, ferrous citrate, ferrous carbonate saccharated, ferrous carbonate mass, ferronascin, ferroglycine sulfate, and ferrocholinate.

3. (Previously presented) The transdermal patch as defined in claim 1, further including a protective peel strip on said contact adhesive.

4. (Previously presented) The transdermal patch as defined in claim 1, further including a backing layer upon said drug reservoir layer.

5. (Previously presented) The transdermal patch as defined in claim 1, further including a hematinic substance in said contact adhesive.

6. (Previously presented) The transdermal patch as defined in claim 1, wherein said backing layer is aluminized polyester film.

7. (Previously presented) The transdermal patch as defined in claim 1, wherein said drug reservoir includes mineral oil and polyisobutylene.

8. (Previously presented) The transdermal patch as defined in claim 1, wherein said contact adhesive includes mineral oil and polyisobutylene.

9. (Previously presented) The transdermal patch as defined in claim 1, wherein said protective peel strip is of siliconized polyester.

10. (Previously presented) The transdermal patch as defined in claim 1, wherein said patch is a film with a plurality of layers and ranges in thickness from .1 mm to .3 mm.

11. (Previously presented) A method of treating an iron deficiency comprising the steps of :
(a) providing a drug reservoir layer containing an hematinic substance; and
(b) securing said drug reservoir layer to a skin surface.

12. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 11, further including the step of applying a rate-controlling membrane to said reservoir layer.

13. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 11, further including the step of applying a contact adhesive to said rate-controlling membrane.

14. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 11, further including the step of selecting said hematinic substance from the class consisting of ferrous sulfate, ferrous lactate, ferrous iodide, ferrous gluconate, ferrous fumarate, ferrous citrate, ferrous carbonate saccharated, ferrous carbonate mass, ferronascin, ferroglycine sulfate, and ferrocholinate.

15. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 11, further including the step of including a protective peel strip on said contact adhesive.

16. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 11, further including the step of including a backing layer upon said drug reservoir layer.

17. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 11, further including the step of including a hematinic substance in said contact adhesive.

18. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 11, further including the step of providing said backing layer as aluminized polyester film.

19. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 11, further including the step of providing said drug reservoir with mineral oil and polyisobutylene.

20. (Previously presented) The method of manufacturing a transdermal patch comprising the steps of;

(a) providing a drug reservoir layer containing an hematinic substance; and

(b) applying said layer to a rate-controlling membrane.